

THE DAGLIGTALE

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Issue 4

Valentine's Special Edition



Act of intolerance occurs at local establishment

Robyn Sheremeta DAG WRITER

On the night of Saturday, January 7, a Camrose couple was asked to leave a local nightclub because of their sexual orientation.

Mark Malishevski and Cole Murray arrived together at the nightclub shortly after midnight. They danced for over an hour before they were confronted by a bouncer. The bouncer informed the men that he had received complaints by other patrons and that they had to leave. Malishevski and Murray were escorted out of the nightclub before last call.

When they arrived, they danced at the back of the dance area, so as to not attract too much attention. The couple danced with each other, and mingled with friends. They eventually moved into a more open area. After dancing in the open for one song, they were escorted out.

Another patron found out about the incident minutes later and confronted the bouncer. The bouncer apologized to the couple but would not allow them to re-enter the premises.

Although they were upset, Malishevski says that they were not treated any differently until they began dancing in an area where other patrons could see them. The nightclub staff were courteous—it was the opinion of one or more patrons who were intolerant of a gay couple.

Both men report that the nightclub staff were friendly and did not seem to have an issue with them. Malishevski noted that the bouncer seemed apologetic. It was the attitude of the anonymous patron(s) that ruined the night more than anything else.

"I don't remember being treated any different there. It's not like we were harassed or anything."

Camrose is considered by many to be a conservative, quiet city that is predominantly middle-aged (according to the 2011 census) and heterosexual, so the act of prejudice is not altogether unexpected.

IT'S VERY DEAR TO ME,
THE ISSUE OF
GAY MARRIAGE.
OR, AS I LIKE TO CALL IT:
'MARRIAGE.'
YOU KNOW, BECAUSE I HAD
LUNCH THIS AFTERNOON, NOT
GAY LUNCH. I PARKED MY CAR;
I DIDN'T GAY PARK IT.
(LIZ FELDMAN)

According to Malishevski, this is not the first time he's been discriminated against in Camrose. He and Murray have been called rude names while they've been out in public before, and he alludes to more serious issues that have arisen as well.

When they go out in public, they are sure to be aware of their actions, and keep their affection to a minimum. Malishevski recalled a time the two had gone for a walk around Mirror Lake, and were reluctant to hold hands in case anyone should notice. Such behaviour is a far cry from that of the young heterosexual couples in Cam-

rose. It is not at all uncommon to witness young adults making out in public places, but Malishevski and Murray cannot even afford a peck on the cheek without being afraid of persecution.

Despite the hardships and inequality, the men keep a positive outlook.

"We just choose our battles. We can't change people's minds when they're just that ignorant. Sure, we ran into one closed-minded [person] that ruined a night. Not too big of a deal."

As for whether they'll go back to the nightclub after the incident, Malishevski seems to be open to the idea. They may not be able to kiss

each other, or dance with each other like the other couples, but they'll take what they can get.

"We know our boundaries, we'll live inside them. It is Camrose after all."

The nightclub could not be reached for comment.

We'd like to know what you think. Was this a realistic example of how same-sex couples are treated in Camrose? Do you believe that two males should be ostracized for showing affection in a nightclub when two females would likely be cheered on for it?

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Letter to the Editor

Kelsey Boisvert

The weekend before school began, I attended a Karaoke night with a group of friends, two of whom have recently started a relationship together. When the karaoke event began winding down, we relocated to a nearby club. Being a Friday night, it was busy. This couple flirted, danced together, and kissed. Most of us know the excitement of a new relationship can often lead to otherwise uncharacteristic public displays of affection, especially with alcohol thrown into the mix. Worse things have been known to occur within the confines of a bar.

We were all having a great time. Until, a security guard approached the couple and informed them that other patrons were complaining about them and that they would have to leave the bar. Embarrassed, they conceded and left the establishment.

This is a travesty, under any circumstance. At this age, we have all been to a bar at least once in our lives. They are dirty, sweaty, awesome places to let loose and have fun... in most instances. Why was this couple an exception to rule? Well, probably because they are gay.

When I heard about what happened I was speechless, but mostly I was infuriated. In 2012, seven years after the government legalized gay marriage in Canada, this kind of bigotry is still occurring. I was under the impression that we were becoming a more accepting society. I was wrong.

I'd like to know two things. One: let's say you are a complete homophobe. Okay. That's your choice as a human. As long as your thoughts and beliefs are kept to yourself so that no one is hurt, then so be it. But when your actions as a bigot harm someone, this is no longer okay. When my friends are humiliated by being asked to exit the premises while innocently enjoying a night out, that is where it becomes a problem. Along the same vein, these men kissing each other during said night out; are their actions hurting you? No. Are you able to face another direction and continue minding your own business? Yes. No harm. No foul. I am a firm believer in freedom within the boundaries of keeping everyone around me safe. If what I am doing is not harming you or anyone else physically or emotionally, I should be able to do it. Everyone has this right.

The second thing I would like to know: If the person who complained (assuming for the purpose of

this argument that they are male) would have objected to two "ideally beautiful" women engaging in similar activities on the dance floor in a bar. In fact, I recall witnessing such an instance occurring and subsequently drawing a crowd of eager viewers. This double standard is not okay. This is not to say I expect my friends to draw a crowd every time they kiss. I am just saying, neither displays of affection are wrong, and no one deserves to be kicked out of a business because of it. It is every adult's natural born right as a human to love, kiss, and "do" any other consenting adult that they so choose. By asking them to leave because their kissing was "offending other patrons" you are infringing on that right. I was under the impression that this way of thinking didn't even exist anymore. I was wrong.

I wrote this article because I was angry. I had to edit many curse words from it. It makes me angry that in this decade, homophobia is still commonplace. It makes me angry that after this particular instance at the bar they are afraid to hold hands in public, and they felt as though they deserved to be kicked out. No one should feel that way because they wanted to kiss their significant other in a public place, no matter if they are Straight, Gay, Lesbian, Trans, Pan, or whatever the case may be.

On Friday, January 29, North Campus welcomed everyone to join their annual Round Dance!

Held by the Aboriginal Student Centre, the Round Dance is a celebration and a strong part of aboriginal heritage. The ceremony shows the Cree philosophy of death and the relationship between us and the spirits. The Elders say that the spirits of those who have died dance with everyone during the Round Dance, in the respect that our relatives are always alive in spirit. Though it started as a healing ceremony it has now turned into a very social get together and dance. From the drumming to the dancing, the Round Dance is a great time to meet new people as well as old friends, and is welcome to anyone who wants to experience something new!

I sat down with Anastasia Everts, who has attended the Round Dance once before and is the Aboriginal student mentor at Augustana,



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Aboriginal Services Centre Presents: Annual Round Dance Celebration!

Brooke Smith DAG WRITER

to talk about her experience at the Round Dance and understand what it's all about.

BS: Could you tell me what happens during a Round Dance ceremony?

AE: The pipe ceremony started at 5:30, and went until midnight. There is the peace pipe and the elders sit around in a circle, where anyone is welcome to join if they want to. Women have to wear long skirts and they can't be on their cycle. It's also very nice to watch if you don't want to join. Then we have the dance, in the middle there's drummers and singers. It's really amazing to hear and really cool to watch. Everyone who wants to dance can hold hands and stand in a

circle around the drummers and singers and shuffle around. Then there's the feast. Last year when this took place at Augustana we had bison stew as well as regular stew, berries and cake at the end. Then you keep dancing, it's mostly the same kind of dancing but they play a bunch of different songs. At the very end there is a giveaway where there are always lots of prizes; some people even brought reusable grocery bags to put them in. It's really fun.

BS: How long does it run?

AE: It is quite long, the one we had at Augustana was from 5:30pm till 2:00 am. But the one at main campus went until midnight.

BS: How important was the experience to you?

AE: It was very important, I loved it. I am the Aboriginal student mentor here and I am Metis, so all my family came and it was a really cool experience.

BS: Would you encourage everyone to come out next year, even if they are not aboriginal?

AE: Yeah! In my house we have four of us, three of us are aboriginal and then we have one friend who isn't - but she came and she had a lot of fun! I think everyone should come out just to experience it.

BS: Thank you Anastasia!

The Relevance of Print Media

Kelly Milne DAG EDITOR

Before I write myself out of a job, let it be known how much I love editing *The Digitalite* and being a voice on the Augustana Campus.

Over my few years here at the *Dag*, I have noticed an extreme lack of communication between the paper and our readers. Ironically I think so. Yes, we do our job and get news out to the public, but you have very little to say about what we print. Having a Facebook page and a Twitter account has helped the conversation, but we only received a total of five submissions last semester.

If you have read this far into this issue's pages, I thank you. But the fact remains that on a campus of about 1000 students and 100 staff and faculty, we only print 250 copies, making our readers a minority. Of those copies, about 80 come back to us untouched. As a critical thinker, I can think of a few reasons to explain the lack of interest in the newspaper.

Firstly, we live in an age of instant communication. If you are interested in the news, you can get it off of the internet (like I do), rather than waiting a month to say

what the *Dag* has to say about it. Our issues from the past two years are on the Augustana website, but again, by the time it gets there, it is old news. No offence to Cindy, it's just how the world works. Perhaps we follow North Campus's *The Gateway's* example and create our own website. However, that would call for a staff with an entirely different skill set, as well as constant maintenance. There is the option of sending everyone a copy via email, but do you all honestly read the Student Services and the Campus Administration newsletters? I'm guessing if you read our paper you read theirs too, so it's a moot point, but do you see what I'm getting at? Perhaps it isn't the relevance of print media I should be worrying about, but whether or not readers care enough about the world to read and learn about it.

Another one of the difficulties we have is in direct conjunction with our name – the Norwegian word for daily news. As a collective whole, we are far removed from this title, since very few of us actually are or take Norwegian, and because we do

not print daily news. Going through our archives, Emily and I found that the paper used to be a weekly bulletin on a much smaller scale, which begs the question: should the paper go through some kind of reform? Unlike the movement in the 1800s towards classicism and simplicity, perhaps we should work harder and publish more issues per month.

Unfortunately this line of thinking has its own setbacks. Our staff can only have so many members, otherwise their commission would drop. Also, their workload here cannot conflict with their degree. Thirdly, we would have to re-examine our printing budget, since the paper is printed in Wainwright and shipped to Camrose.

The final consideration that has crossed my mind is sustaining a newspaper in an eco-friendly world. Those 80 issues that come back have no purpose and just hit the recycle bin. A few are kept to give to our staff, and one is filed away. As an environmentalist, I find it unjustifiable to be ordering such vast amounts of paper, only to have them unused and unused. In an age of

Kindles and Kobos, it is possible to be paper-free. But for people like my mother, nothing beats holding a book. There is something about the smell of paper and ink, and the rustling of pages as you strive to know what happens next, whether it is fact or fiction. With regards to e-textbooks, it is more difficult to flip to a page when attempting to find a citation. I do not think books, magazines, and newspapers will be going out of style anytime soon; they are just too engrained in our society.

Where do we go from here? It is clear to me that we cannot continue down the path we are already on – there must be a change. However, I think *The Digitalite* is still an important part of our campus. It has evolved since the 1970s, but is still here. It is important for students to have a place where their voice is heard and spread. It is also vital that events and fundraisers are publicized and recognized. I had a mentor once say that we become published writers as soon as we post on the internet. But if everyone on Facebook is a published writer, is there even a need

for physical publishing?

I realized I have asked a lot of questions of you, which unconventional for formal writing. My hope in asking so much is that the conversation increases between us and you. You do not need to be the smartest in your class, part of the hottest couple, or the most controversial person on campus. You do need to be informed. At the *Dag*, Emily and I often speak about the most idiotic thing that happened to us that day, because the world is full of average thinkers who accept the status-quo. If you are in university, you are one of the elite; one of the few who can afford higher education and thus cultivate critical thinking skills. I'm not asking you to start a rebellion and overthrow Harper (am I?), but I am asking you to understand what is going on at your campus, in your city, province, country, and world. The world needs people like you, but how can you help the world if you do not know what is going on?

Habitat for Humanity Camrose—Habitat ReStore

Sara Glocker DAG WRITER and Emily Merklinger DAG EDITOR

Camrose is home to specific community support organizations, one of which is Habitat for Humanity. Habitat is an organization that builds affordable houses for those in need in Camrose, and provides a "hand up, not a hand-out" for individuals.

One of the programs offered through Habitat is called ReStore. The goal of ReStore is to accept and resell used furniture for cheap. Shopping at ReStore is a great opportunity for students living within limited budgets, and also for people who are interested in keeping consuming from big box stores to a minimum.

ReStore receives furniture and building supplies to build homes for individuals who are disadvantaged, in order to help break the cycle of poverty. 100% of profits from ReStore go to Habitat for Humanity for building houses. Not only can you buy cheap furniture for yourself, you will be helping an organization assist those in need. People donate everything from housewares, from doors to furniture, and from plumbing to windows.

Our lovely editor Emily Merklinger met with Habitat for Humanity Camrose's Executive Director and Restore Manager, Cody McCarroll. Here are some highlights from the interview.

EM: In regards to ReStore, why would purchasing items from the store be beneficial to students? Do you ever get students shopping at ReStore?

CM: Good question. We see students coming in early in the year, usually around September, trying to fill up their sometimes-meagre accommodations [laughs] with some cost effective furniture. We have a fairly wide variety of sometimes very gently used, and sometimes old vintage, but still in good condition furniture. We don't accept anything that looks like a cat has used it for a bed for the last few years. Everything is generally free of rips, tears, and major stains. So, clean, used and definitely better to have it in a university student's house than a landfill. So, yeah, we have lots of students come in looking for furniture, and the odd time we've had them come in looking for tables – two or three groups of them, but tables of [a] certain dimension; tables that I quickly ascertained were being used for beer pong [both laugh].

EM: How many people actually shop at ReStore?

CM: We have, I would say ... off the top of my head an average of fifty transactions per day. So, there would be several, and I don't know how many more people, at least

fifty more people shopping in the store per day. We would probably have on the average day a hundred customers – between one and one hundred and fifty. Saturday, of course, like any other retail store, is a little busier.

EM: You mentioned to me that Habitat is looking for student volunteers. What kind of skills would they require? What tasks would they do? What would be the benefits of volunteering for student volunteers?

CM: Basically, we can use anyone's skills and put them to work here at the ReStore, or on the build site ... we have volunteers from all ages, all walks of life, so basically, we can work with whatever skills you happen to have. If you're a people person, you can work as a sales associate and do some selling on the floor for us. You can work with our very easy to understand cash register, if you're good at that sort of thing, and basically take on your role as customer service greeter and general person who talks to everyone who comes in the door.

EM: Like a Wal-Mart greeter?

CM: Ah, kind of [laughs]. Wal-Mart greeter and cashier all rolled into one. If you like people, that's a great job for you [at ReStore]. It's a very important job, actually. It kind

of keeps the atmosphere of the place as being the place where everyone is friendly and everyone knows your name. Also, if you're mechanically inclined, or a heavy-lifter, there is always stuff to do. We carry a lot of home building products, appliances, furniture, that sort of thing. There's always something that needs to be moved, rearranged, cleaned-up and sorted, and moved out onto the sales floor. We're always unloading donations that show up during the day ... and loading purchases, as well, onto people's trucks. We can keep busy shipping and receiving for most of the day.

On the build site, if students are interested in volunteering this summer, we'll be working between whenever we can get going in April...throughout the summer on this project; and again, it doesn't matter if you've never ever touched a tool in your life before. There's always something to do on the build site...

EM: I think your website said you're always looking for people to cater to it too.

CM: Exactly. I had forgotten about that. That's right. When we have big groups of volunteers in, and even some of our contractors, providing meals for them is a big bonus. If we could provide meals for the

people working there, it's a big incentive for them to come back – volunteers, and also some of our contractors who are very good to us in providing cut rates for their services.

EM: How is this program healthy for the community of Camrose? For example, how do Habitat and ReStore contribute to the local social economy?

CM: ReStore's primary mission is to fund our home-building program; that's number one. It has a couple of spin-offs, though. It's also a very green retail operation. We run all our recycling programs and we divert, I think, eighty-eight tons of material, from not just the Camrose landfill because we get stuff in from surrounding area... The other spin-off: we do provide low cost materials, low cost goods, to lower income people in Camrose – students being among that particular demographic, although, our customers come from all walks of life. We see them drive up in Escalades, and also walk to the store because they don't have cars. We have a very diverse clientele, and we try to serve their needs the best we can.

EM: Twigs' furniture is from ReStore, right?

Ctd. Page 10



Elizabeth Clarke, left

BIO: I am a 20 yr old talented musician.
INTERESTS: I love Liszt and lists. I like frolicking in the park and passionate discussions.
LOOKING FOR: an equally passionate person, but only

Punctually yours, Liz.



Johnathan Raine, right

BIO: Suave piano G string breaker
INTERESTS: Travelling in time to meet Rachmaninoff, diving off of mountains on bikes
LOOKING FOR: A security detail to keep all the stary-eyed piano girls off of his tail.

"Big Mac" Orr, left

BIO: Master Trivia Gun Slinger of the West
INTERESTS: Following stock market trends and laughing, collecting scarves
LOOKING FOR: An exceptionally organized person to help me categorize my scarf collection.



Brooke Smith, above

BIO: A sparkling Sagittarius
INTERESTS: Skrillex, cookies, vampires making out
LOOKING FOR: Someone who will give her a free, clean tattoo

Robyn Sheremeta, right

BIO: 19 yr old food connoisseur
INTERESTS: Depressing music like AFI, cupcakes, lasagne, Disney movies
LOOKING FOR: an intelligent, existentialist man who wears make-up well and has good taste in obscure music



Ally Larson, left

BIO: 20 yr old struggling and starving actor
INTERESTS: Star Wars, 80s music, video games, Rob Paulsen
LOOKING FOR: The Han Solo to her Princess Leia



Elisia Snyder, right

BIO: Amateur word wrestler
INTERESTS: Singing along to Glee, salivating over Cake (the band and the food)
LOOKING FOR: Someone to speak French with, but not while she's frenching her boyfriend.



Catherina Harder, right

BIO: 20 yr old classy Cancer
INTERESTS: wine enthusiast, especially white, swing dancing and attending concerts
LOOKING FOR: her perfect prince charming who can cook gourmet meals and pair it with the perfect wine



Sara Gloeckel, left

BIO: I'm like a Roman Candle.
INTERESTS: Burning things, but not hair, comedic musical acts, good-looking hockey players
LOOKING FOR: A new country to develop as my own, sustainable home!



Coleman Miller, above

BIO: 19 yr old Scorpio who is an aspiring lawyer/actor
INTERESTS: Hockey, musicals and sarcastic comments
LOOKING FOR: a musically inclined girl who understands his sarcasm and will bake him cupcakes



Kendra Thevenaz, left

BIO: The next Jane Austen
INTERESTS: Dressing up in yesterday's latest fashions, skating around town, men named Brandon
LOOKING FOR: More parties without a -30 wind chill.



Martin Luther, below

BIO: I am a 25 yr old statue who loves gray.
INTERESTS: Following students with my eyes, looming over insects
LOOKING FOR: A friend to dust the snow off, and protect me from people's decorations.

Emily Merklinger, right

BIO: 20 yr old Anarchist and resident hipster at the Dag office.
INTERESTS: post-structuralism, Belgian Beet, and red lipstick
LOOKING FOR: a modern day Cary Grant will write her bad poetry



Kelly Milne, left

BIO: almost 20 yr old aspiring musician
INTERESTS: Song-writing, organizing, and midnight adventures
LOOKING FOR: Someone who will invent a teleportation device so she can visit her boy more often



Last Chance To Get Laid Before the Apocalypse

Penny Trayshun-Freud DAG SEX COLUMNIST

Ahhh, smell that? The intoxicating aroma of desperation and B.O. are wafting through the halls of Augustana. February 14 must be upon us: a day of passion, romance, and over-priced novelty frogs. Reader, this is your year. In 2012, you will have a date for Valentine's Day, and will charm their pants off. If I don't get you laid on what may be our last year as a sex columnist.

Single?

Pick one person to charm. Preferably someone who is also single, and preferably someone who hasn't already rejected you. Your sudden interest and extra attention will flatter them, especially on this magical day of lowered expectations and self-doubt.

Compliments. Don't go overboard, but who doesn't love hearing that their eyes are like two blue somethings. Not good with poetry? "I like your face" is a good fall back.

Be mysterious. Give them a sultry stare and then toss your hair. Be James Dean. Be that guy off of *Superstar*. Not Will Farrell... the weird looking one. He was kind of endearing, right?

Find new and clever ways to

start conversation. "Do you have gum? I have wicked coffee breath," or "I think you dropped your crumpled napkin with my number on it!"

Pick a date that they just can't say no to. Dinner and a movie is boring, and easy to reject. Challenge them to a lego-building contest. Invite them to your grandma's funeral. Offer them your extra ticket to see The Beatles live in concert in 1965.

Stay positive and confident. The more you complain about your crippling loneliness, the less people want to be around you and date the pants off of you.

In a relationship?

Mail them something.

Whether it's a love letter, or a human head, snail mail is old fashioned and romantic. Just make sure they check their mailbox every day or you look like the jerk who forgot Valentine's Day, panicked, and disembodied a human.

Do breakfast. I've already talked about how boring and rejectable dinner is. Dinner is so overdone; you probably won't even be able to make a reservation. So don't try. Breakfast is light-hearted, special and if you

get up before 11, McDonald's is still serving it. (Bonus points if you do breakfast on February 15.)

Make a playlist. It can be cheesy, but would you rather make out to a well thought out list of tunes that you both dig or *The Muppets* soundtrack when it comes on your shuffle? Don't answer that.

Make a fort. Anyone who says they don't love forts is a liar. You were probably planning on watching a movie, anyway - why not do it in a super awesome fort? You'll laugh while making it, and then have a secluded area all your own in which to... Watch movies inside of.

Use your talents. Now is your opportunity to impress whoever it is that you've been courting without looking like an egotistical tool. Write/sing/play them a song, cook them a meal, paint them a picture... Do them some math...

Long term relationship?

Gussy up. You've reached the pants-optional point in your relationship. As nice as that is, your partner will appreciate the effort you put into reminding them why they're with you.

Dress up. No, I'm not just rephrasing the previous tip because I'm getting tired of writing and you're getting tired of reading. I mean in the sack. Have fun role-playing as some of your partner's fantasies to switch things up. Classic 1970s women are very popular, such as Princess Leia or Carrie on prom night.

Thoughtful gifts. Sorry, but the longer you're together, the more thought you have to put into a gift. It's the rules. Human heads are child's play. Upside? If you handcraft the gift it makes you look sensitive, and you're saving dollars. You're welcome.

Set the scene. You're probably sick of wherever you usually hang out, so find somewhere new. A hotel room. A cabin.

The backseat of your 1979 Camaro. Or at least make your place look new, with strategically placed rose petals and colored fabric over the lamp. (Bonus points for listening to Bon Jovi's "Bed of Roses" whilst the lovemaking occurs.)

Whatever, you're in a long-term relationship. Your partner is obligated to make the sweet love to you on Valentine's Day. So just keep it down for your roommate's sake.

Stay safe, and have fun this Valentine's Day, friends. It doesn't matter if you're watching slasher films, or recreating them in the bedroom - respect each other. I don't just mean your partner (which is very important), but also everyone else in the world. Don't make the couples feel bad for having fun, and don't make the single kids feel bad for being lonely.



What to Wear: Valentines Edition

Ally Larson DAG FASHIONISTA

Ah yes. It's Friday night and your palms are as slick as a Guido's hairdo. Any minute now, your future life partner will be ringing that doorbell and escorting you to the backseat of their 1979 Camaro. The sweet sounds of a DeLeppard 8-track sets the tone for romance... But, that's just one scenario. Maybe, you're going on a date with someone you hope to never see again and they ride up on their Vespa singing Simple Plan. Or maybe, they drive a hearse and listen to The Cure. A limo and Barry White? Any way it plays out, you want to dress to impress. So, I have compiled a special column for you, dear reader. Ancient advice passed down from the gods of aesthetic: Date Night Fashion Tips!

Let's start with the women. Now, ladies, read carefully. If you choose to ignore these rules, not only have you disrespected me, but also you've screwed yourself over.

#1: Be comfortable in

your outfit. This is very important. It doesn't matter if you're wearing Gucci or a garbage bag, if you feel uncomfortable, you will look even worse. By no means am I saying wear sweatpants on your dinner date. But if you decide to go with a tight dress, and are used to wearing baggy athletic wear, you are committing two mortal fashion sins: you're not being yourself and you will fuss with your outfit. Nothing says love like adjusting your boobs or picking a skirt out of your butt crack every five minutes. This brings me to tip two...

#2: Be Yourself. Okay, so far these are pretty cliché tips - but you won't get very far without them, trust me. Your date asked you out because they like the way you look on a regular basis - so how about boyfriend jeans, heels, and a cute off the shoulder top for a classed up version of your comfortable self? Figure out your regular style, and then show off the nicest version of that. Be-

lieve me, your date didn't ask out Audrey Hepburn only to pick up Joan Jett. And vice versa.

#3: Pick one thing and show it off. Got nice legs? Hike up that hem! Confident about your curves? Plunging neckline! No acne scars on your back? You grab that pair of scissors and cut the back out of your LBD. Not only does showing a little skin get your date's attention (oh my God, I sound like a Cosmo...), but it will boost your confidence. Confidence is the sexiest outfit. This also applies to makeup. Bright lips or smoky eye - not both! But don't show it all off! Keep your date interested: be mysterious, stay classy, and if you find a legless, backless, armless, cleavage-y outfit that shows off your stomach... You're no longer wearing real clothes.

#4: Dress activity appropriate. Normally I would say that this is a given, but some people do wear heels

when they were asked to out hiking. Go figure. (Also, it's winter, girls. Wear tights under your dresses, and bundle up; even layers can be cute! Blue, shivering and whiny is not a good look.)

#5: Choose your silhouette. I assume you've been dressing yourself for a few years now, so you may have some idea what different styles of clothes look like on your body. Then again, I could be wrong. But something to keep in mind is your silhouette, or the outline of your body. Different styles of garment give you a different outline, so it might take some experimenting to find your most flattering styles. I include this for date-night advice because silhouettes also play a part in the image you're projecting with your clothing. Hourglass figure says 'va-va-voom', whereas, an A-line skirt looks sweeter, and random back protrusions say 'Quasimodo'.

#6: LBD. Don't know what to wear? Little black dress! This baby will never let you down, unlike the dates you'll wear it on. Not only is it classic and flattering, but also nothing is easier to accessorize! You can do literally anything to make this your own look! Patterned tights. Layered gold bling. A belted waist. A patterned scarf. Bright shoes. Maybe not all of these at once, but you get the picture. Play around, because you have the wiggle room to do so with such a neutral base.

#7: Follow fashion blogs. This is just a good idea, no matter what... But if you're still freakin' out about the perfect outfit, there's nothing better than a great fashion blog to inspire you. Use these internet gurus to inspire your own style, and experiment!

Boys, you didn't think I forgot about you, did you? Follow rules 1, 2, 4, and 7 from the ladies' list. Then add a moustache, a cigar, and aviators. Done. Dream man.

Valentine's Day: Who, What, and Why?!

Sara Gloeckler DAG WRITER

Valentine's Day (V-Day) is a controversial occasion that is celebrated worldwide. Both equally loved and hated, the day of February 14th stirrs up a lot of debate. Let's delve into why this day came into existence.

Culturally a Christian tradition, Valentine's Day originally represented honoring three martyred saints. Each of these saints were named Valentine, and it is said they were martyred the day of February 14th, albeit, different years. The connection between romance and the martyrdom of the saints appears to be lost in translation from the 3rd century to the 14th century CE. However, legend has it that one specific St. Valentine performed secret marriage ceremonies, as the ruler at the time allegedly ordered that young men must remain single (the ruler's reasoning being that married men don't make good soldiers.) Another legend is that St. Valentine, having been thrown in jail, wrote letters to his beloved signed, "From your Valentine."

Upon searching for the origins of V-Day, I came across an article that shared a

brief history of how Roman's celebrated their love for each other. In ancient Rome, the festival of *Lupercalia* would be celebrated between the days of February 13-15. A matchmaking lottery would occur, where names of women would be drawn for the men and each were coupled for the duration of the festival. For a time, each woman would line up to be beaten by her man, as this was thought to make women more fertile. Thankfully, this misogynistic practice is no longer acceptable in society.

Traditionally, St. Valentine's Day has become a day where lovers expressed affections for each other by presenting flowers and greeting cards. The commercialization of V-Day increased in the 19th century, when mass-produced greeting cards became a social norm in showing affection.

In regards to the controversy of Valentine's Day, religion plays an important role. In Saudi Arabia, during years 2002 and 2008, the sale of Valentine's Day products was banned. Shop workers were told to remove any red items from their shops, as the day is considered a Christian

holiday. Social controversy is important to recognize as well. The anti-consumerist movement, as well as the idea of forced romance, are two categories of "anti-Valentinism." Society is socially constructed into consuming mass amounts of products on V-Day, as it is apparently necessary in showing affection to a loved one. The criticism for forced love on this holiday is that there should not be only one day devoted to loving your partner. Especially since V-Day is often used for reminding "romantically challenged people" (synonym for d-bags) to act romantically out of force rather than free will.

If Valentine's Day is not exactly your cup of tea, there are alternative ways to cope with February 14th. Singles Awareness Day (SAD) is another holiday to counteract V-Day, as well as Anti-Valentine's Day-Day (Anti-V-Day). Both holidays can be celebrated with friends or individually. So however you decide to spend February 14th, as a night out with a loved one, or spent alone in your apartment watching *Chocolat* and eating salad, the Day wishes you the very best!

from the sale of their Valentine's Day oriented products every February. If you google the statistics, you'll see the large influx of wealth directed to companies, like Hershey's or Hallmark, every single holiday. But, why? Why do we give the rich more money every single Valentine's Day? Is it in the name of love, or is it in the name of stupidity and a universally accepted appreciation for material goods? What happens to the Valentine's Day goods that aren't purchased? Are they just thrown out?

Furthermore, there is always the ethical consideration to be considered when discussing Valentine's Days goods. Where did your engagement ring come from? Where was your sexy, black Victoria's Secret lingerie made? Was that rose sprayed with chemicals? There's an issue related to Valentine's Day for everyone concerned with any issue: the ever-present gap between sexes and dictated gender roles, environmental concerns, and probably, animal rights. My issue just happens to be the marketing of the Western value-system. My issue is capitalism, and everything that is succint with it.

What am I advocating for? I live in our consumer culture, and I easily succumb to it on a daily basis (I have an addiction to really expensive Dior lipstick). I celebrate holidays like Christmas, and buy gifts for my friends and family. I also always end up remorseful whenever I do not receive a Valentine's Day gift. I wish that I had that lavish other who could lavish me with expensive chocolates, and ravish me on a rose petal covered bed, with a musician playing a lute in the background. But, I also wonder why one day is designated to be the day that we celebrate love? Or even more so, why do we feel a need to buy those expensive chocolates or Edward Cullen Valentines? Are we so deeply entrenched in our socio-economic value system that we can't do otherwise?

I'm advocating for Valentine's Day to be abandoned. Why should I be remorseful that I'm not falling into rhythm with a culturally dictated mandate that I should be in a relationship with someone else in order to reproduce children in an overpopulated world? And, why should I want this hypothetical person to buy me gifts? Instead, I think love should be celebrated everyday and in more meaningful ways than heart-shaped candles that say "Be Mine" or cards with dippy sayings inside of them. Nor do I wish to receive a card that has either a Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go On" playing inside

of it, or a picture of Edward Cullen on the cover.

Perhaps, part of me is a little bit bitter about the fact that I'm always single. Or, maybe I'm just a bitter, lonely socialist. But then, I think of how many people who get engaged on Valentine's Day, and how many goods are purchased. Do I really want to participate in something that advocates (whether consciously or unconsciously) the three things I hate the most: the institution of marriage, pity inspirational sayings, and capitalism?

I suggest you tell the people you love that you love them everyday, and treat them as if you actually do love them. Who cares about the other stuff (okay, chocolate is nice)? Or you could always write a song about your significant other, make them a gift, or show them a day they will always remember (like skydiving). Please, just do something meaningful that falls out outside of our addiction to consumerism.

*Our capitalist roots date back to before Adam Smith's 1776 publication *The Wealth of Nations*, or even the foundation of America. Yes, I am implying that Canadians are similar to Americans. Deal with it. During the English Renaissance, a new class emerged. This class was composed of "upstart" merchants who gained money by actually working. Instead of the aristocracy having the majority of money, property and leisure, the upstarts also had money, property and leisure. Where am I going with this? The Puritans, and others, who fled England in the seventeenth century, came to America in the 1600s. The new settlers were highly religious people (Oliver Cromwell intended to flee to America but was not allowed to; Cromwell was actually a moderate compared to other Puritans and Presbyterians). America became the place designated by God to the 'holy people'. But, America, beyond being founded on religious sentiment, was founded on the upstart sentiment. America became a place where, in theory, anybody could make money; as exemplified in the mid-nineteenth century by various Gold Rushes and new industries, like the rise of the large-scale cattle industry starting in the late nineteenth century.

**The *Twilight* franchise also has flat iron, Justin Bieber has a nail polish line.

A Rant: Is Valentine's Day in a relationship with Capitalism?

Emily Merklinger DAG EDITOR

I don't hate Valentine's Day because I hate being fed expensive chocolates by my significant other, on a rose petal covered bed, whilst a Renaissance-style musician is serenading us with a lute. That would be my ideal date. Nor, do I hate Valentine's Day because I am often without a significant other on holidays. That doesn't really perturb me. In fact, I don't care about Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day has been stung by our economic system's arrow. It's just another excuse to feed money to hungry corporations, who sit on a hundred-dollar bill covered bed, whilst a Renaissance-musician is serenading them with a lute. Valentine's Day is just a hallmark holiday.

Indeed, the majority of holidays we celebrate have become commercialized. Christmas, a holiday that has roots in Pagan tradition (how ironic) and was adapted to fit Christian needs, is almost solely about getting and giving extravagant presents (hence, "put the Christ back in Christmas", which is also ironic). Christmas was even banned in the sixteenth century in England by Oliver

Cromwell's Puritan government because of the extravagance of the holiday. Even Halloween was turned into something to be put up for sale to increase profit. Instead of small children making their own costumes, they are now able to find them from box stores (Wal-Mart) that sell flimsy costumes made in a third-world country for a cheap price. Not only this, but Halloween also represents the exploitive, hypersexualized culture that we live in that aims to sell, sell, sell!

What does capitalism have to do with Valentine's Day? Everything. In capitalist states, nearly everything from sex to chocolate to sports is commoditized. Everything is marketed. Everything is used to boost wealth in the hands of few. Valentine's Day, instead of directly relating to one of the few St. Valentines, represents the capitalist ideology (note: Valentine's Day made one of its first major appearances in Chaucer's *Legend of being about love, Platonic or romantic, and demonstration of love, Valentine's Day is about who can purchase their girlfriend, boy-*

friend or friend the most extravagant (meaningful?) gift.

Or even more so, there are elementary kids who told they must buy Valentines (with pictures of *Twilight* characters or Batman or something on them) in order to demonstrate their friendship with their classmates. The very fact that popular motion pictures or TV shows take a prominent place on Valentines hints at what I'm getting at: everything is for sale. By buying flimsy Valentines, like ones that have pictures of Edward Cullen on them**, a person is feeding into the capitalist mentality, as well as feeding a corporation, that quite frankly, doesn't need more money. It's a never-ending cycle of consumerism.

Valentine's Day is also the number one holiday for a couple to become engaged. I can't think of anything less romantic and more cliché. There are numerous reasons to find fault with the institution of marriage, and the sheer number of couples who become engaged on consumer holidays speaks for itself. Not only this, but large corporations gross billions of dollars



The Augustana Choir Welcomes Pro Coro Canada

Press release submitted by Dr. Ardelie Reis

Pro Coro Canada, a professional chamber choir resident in Edmonton, is pleased to announce that it will be presenting a concert in the Faith & Life Chapel at the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, February 15, 2012.

The concert, entitled *Heart Meditations*, features a new composition by Canadian composer and saxophonist David Mott, who will be in attendance at the concert. Mott taught graduate composition at Yale University, and is currently a professor at York University. His love of music and beauty is ever present and weaves its way into his contemporary classical compositions. *Heart Meditations* will premiere in Edmonton on Sunday, February 12 at McDougall United Church.

The guest conductor for this concert is Sweden's Erik Westberg—an internationally recognized and much sought after choral conductor. He has won many awards including Choral Conductor of the Year by the Federation of Swedish Choral Associations. Erik was the founder of the

project *Choral Singing for Peace and Justice* which involved 8,000 chorists from 56 countries. This project was broadcast to an international television audience to celebrate the millennium. While in Camrose Westberg and David Mott will present lectures for Augustana music students, and Westberg will lead choral workshops with The Augustana Choir, the choirs at the Camrose Composite High School, and with the Camrose Camerata.

Partial proceeds from this concert will support The Augustana Choir study and performance tour to Hungary in May 2012. Sponsors for this presentation include 790

CFCW, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Canada Council for the Arts and The Fairmont Hotel MacDonald. Tickets for the concert are available at:

- Augustana Campus Bookstore
- Candler Art Gallery
- Augustana Choir members
- At the door

For additional information: Pro Coro Canada

Ph. 780-420-2147

thechoir@procoro.ab.ca

Valerie Bailey

Music Office, Department of Fine Arts

Augustana Campus

Ph. 780-679-1532

vbailey@ualberta.ca



Masquerade is quickly approaching

Robyn Sheremeta DAG WRITER

Mark your calendars, Augustana students, because the Winter Formal is coming and it's coming up fast. On February 4, students will have the opportunity to drink, drink, drink, and be merry at the Norsemen Inn, all while wearing classy formal attire and masks. The night will begin at 8pm with a cocktail party and the dance will follow at 10pm.

Rather than going with the usual dinner and dance, Nathan Sereda (VP Student Life) and Carlo Martin (VP Academic) decided to try a different approach for this year's Winter Formal. The traditional dinner was replaced with a cocktail party in the hopes that students would mingle more. With the help of the Student Council Activities Committee

(Sandra Gawad, Emily Hay, Vickie Michaud, and Kemor Brewster), they decided on a masquerade theme. The ASA will be selling simple masquerade masks at the door for \$2, or students are welcome to wear their own. Of course, wearing a mask is not mandatory, but

why not be a little mysterious and go along with the theme? As per the name, "Winter Formal", the expected dress code is semi-formal or formal.

During the cocktail hour, all guests will receive a complimentary glass of champagne. The ambient music will be provided by the Simply Brass Quintet. Along with the champagne and tunes, there will be snacks, icebreaker games, and a photo booth. Once the clock strikes 10pm, the room will switch into dance mode until the party ends at 2am.

There will be a shuttle bus running between the Faith and Life Centre and the Norsemen Inn between 8pm and 2am.

All guests are reminded to bring their government-issued photo ID and ticket. The date for buying tickets has passed, but if students still wish to purchase them, they can inquire at the ASA office.

Warm Welcome to Wynn Coates

Kendra Thevanaz DAG WRITER

This semester, there are a lot of new faces on campus, including Wynn Coates. You may think he's just another student but don't be fooled; he's actually temporarily teaching sociology 105 while in between degrees. I spoke with Wynn in the hopes that staff and students could get a little more acquainted with him. Welcome, Wynn!

K.T.: What classes do you teach here at Augustana?

W.C.: I'm teaching Sociology 105, Social Anthropology. Currently, I'm in between degrees. I had a little break after finishing my last one and this opened up so I decided to take it up in between degrees to do something. So that's why I'm teaching just the one class.

K.T.: Where are you from?

W.C.: I am from St. Paul, Alberta. I grew up by the North Saskatchewan River. I like to spend a lot of time outside so where I grew up is really important. I lived a few miles from the North Saskatchewan River by the Saddle Lake Cree national reserve. It's a boreal parkland transition zone, which I find important because I do a lot of hiking and stuff like that. When I was younger, I used to spend most of time walking with my dog, Freddy.

K.T.: Can you give us a brief summary of your academic career?

W.C.: I started out at Augustana because of what I was interested in, being outside, so I thought I should take biology. So I started with a biology major and an economics minor. And then I discovered that I didn't really have the knack for it; it really wasn't where I wanted to go. I switched to environmental studies because that seemed to be a little more political than biology and, that way, you can understand biology in a social context. I was in environmental studies until my second year and traded my economics minor for a political studies minor. I then became disenchanted with environmental studies because it wasn't political enough. So I changed my major yet again to political studies and took environmental studies as my minor. Then I went to Queen's University in Kingston and got my MA in political studies there.

However, since the beginning of my academic career, I've been compelled towards anthropology. As a result, I was able to incorporate it into my Masters research. And then from Queen's, I came back to Augustana to teach this anthropology course.

K.T.: What was your thesis?

W.C.: For my thesis, I looked at the way in which neo-liberal capitalism was able to continue its expansion in spite of overwhelming social ills such as destruction of cultures, destruction of other knowledge, and destruction of communities. While looking at the question of how its expansion and re-articulation is legitimized, reproduced, and justified, I incorporated economic and legal anthropology into my research. I was looking at neo-liberal capitalism in the context of Tanzania. Tanzania used to be an agrarian, socialist country and now it is very much within the free market, participating in neo-liberal capitalism which the leaders of that country have adopted. For my thesis, I was interested in the justification of this transition from socialism to this aggressive form of neo-liberal capitalism and all the social ills that come with it. The central question I was asking for my thesis is how is neo-liberalism locally reproduced, locally legitimized, and locally justified.

K.T.: What made you decide to become a university professor?

W.C.: In this circumstance, it's a little unusual because I'm in between my Masters and my

PhD. Where I'm headed is to be a permanent university professor; that is my goal. It just happened to happen a little earlier because I am in between degrees and this was younger, I drew and came up. I think there is something inherently gratifying about knowledge and doors. Later, I met some people in the artist community, Gisela Felsberg and Robert Bateman, which launched me into painting. They helped me along and trained me a lot in my composition, technique and style of painting. And so painting became a really big part of my life. I mostly paint the natural world.

K.T.: Would you encourage other students to follow the path you took?

W.C.: Of course I would if this was their interest. Certainly I would recommend the idea of university, the idea of exploring knowledge, the idea of learning about others. I think those are all things that we should take from university. To approach things critically and interestingly and ask questions is what academia does and people can leave university with those skills. So in that sense, the more broad and abstract path, yeah I would recommend that to everybody. We need more than ever people who are somewhat informed.

K.T.: What do you like to do when you are not teaching?

W.C.: There's nothing better than being outdoors, going hiking or something, preferably by where I grew up. And I've always painted. When I was younger, I drew and came up. I think there is something inherently gratifying about knowledge and doors. Later, I met some people in the artist community, Gisela Felsberg and Robert Bateman, which launched me into painting. They helped me along and trained me a lot in my composition, technique and style of painting. And so painting became a really big part of my life. I mostly paint the natural world.

K.T.: If you could travel through time to any era in any place, where would you go and when?

W.C.: I would have liked to work with George Adamson. He ran the Kora National Reserve in Kenya during the 70s. He rehabilitated formerly captive lions back into the wild. For me, that's just the most romantic life possible. What is meaningful to me about this time and place is that I'd be living in a place where you're not bothered too much because complexity bothers me.

Nana Asante-Apeatu - VP Finance

Kendra Thevenaz DAG WRITER

This month, I took a trip to the Augustana Student Association's office to chat with Nana Asante-Apeatu, the VP of Finance for the ASA. Not only is he skilled in dealing with budgeting, management and economics, he's good-humored and loves to laugh. I really enjoyed getting to know Nana through this interview and encourage those that don't already know this charismatic character, to get to know him.

K.T.: What is your role in the Augustana Student's Association and what does it entail?
N.A.: My role is the VP of Finance. Basically, my job is to just make sure that the Association is in good financial shape. So anything that has to do with budgeting, reviewing the audits, and making sure we're not going over budget and that our financial resources are going to the right places.

K.T.: What is the most difficult part of being the VP of Finance?
N.A.: With the people I work with, it's not really a difficult job because we all work hard together. The ASA members helped me a lot because I was new in the position. Cindy [Roose] helps me a lot with the financial work. My team

members are great, they always do their best to help me out. The only thing difficult about the job would be myself not getting things done in time. But in terms of the actual work I'm doing, it's going smoothly because of the people around me.

K.T.: How are resources distributed at Augustana?
N.A.: Basically, every student pays a fee, so the number of students determines the resources we have. Also we get a transfer payments from the SU (Student's Union) so these resources are distributed mostly to our bashes. Our bashes take a lot of funding; lately, costs have been going up for bashes with the buses and, due to past events, security has gone up in price. Some of our resources go to administrative stuff. Also, we fund the Dag and we give out grants.

K.T.: What made you decide to be a part of the ASA?
N.A.: In my second year, I was first a part of the Student Review Board. After my first case, I became really interested and wanted to be one of the guys that run things around here [laughs]. I spoke to Carlo [Martin] a lot and he got me interested in the job. My friend, Rume

[Dedekuma] also thought it would be a good idea to get a black guy into the executive committee [laughs]. But also one of the reasons I wanted to be a part of the ASA is because I thought the little I could do could probably make a difference and I could learn a lot. I just really want to learn a lot and meet a lot of people so I thought this was the right place to come to.

K.T.: What other student activities are you involved in on campus?
N.A.: I do a lot of international student stuff because I am international student myself; I used to be the VP for the International Student Club so I still do a lot of stuff with them. I can't be too active because of my role right now but whenever they have any events, I like to attend. I'm really close with Sandra [Gawad] so I'm always at the international students' events like International Student Thanksgiving so I do a lot of stuff like that. Also on campus, I play soccer; I love soccer! Apart from being everywhere socializing, I guess there's nothing specific.

K.T.: What's your year and major here at Augustana?

N.A.: I'm a third year, business and economics major.

K.T.: What are your future plans?
N.A.: My future plans have changed a lot over the past two years. I wanted to be a soccer player when I was a little kid. But I changed a lot and found economics. My future plans would probably be to, initially, work for an international organization because I want to do business across borders basically. I don't want to forget to go back to where I'm from, Ghana, and help businesses and do some philanthropy work. I really want to do philanthropy work back home.

K.T.: What are some of your traveling experiences?
N.A.: I lived in France before I came to Canada. I lived in Lyon for almost a year and was in school there. When I was in Lyon, I travelled to Zurich, Switzerland and I think it's the best place I've been. I was there for a week but it was pretty amazing. And I have family in the States so I travel to the States quite often. I'm looking forward to traveling more though; it's hard for me to stay in one place for long.

K.T.: What is your opinion of Canada?
N.A.: When I came to Canada, it was very different. I was in New Jersey before I came to Camrose - my first time to Canada. One thing I like about Canada is the people; I think the people are awesome. I feel like people here are more accepting to internationals and it is easier to mingle. For me, the big thing is that the people are great but the weather is quite troubling. I tried to be optimistic about it my first year but it kind of died [laughs]. Although, if you have great people around you, wherever you are, you are going to have great experiences.

K.T.: Do you have a favorite memory from being a part of the ASA?

N.A.: That's a hard one [laughs]. We've had a lot of laughs, I must say. I don't think I can pinpoint one specific memory but I think our retreat was good; I really enjoyed our retreat. It was a great start to my ASA career. Everyday we have a lot of laughs, especially with Sam [Whitlinton], Carlo [Martin], and Nathan [Sereda] around, it's always a good laugh!

Need Something to Read?

Emily Merklinger DAG EDITOR

Lately, I've been thinking about the books that define who I am, or have greatly influenced me in the past - books that have made me want to be someone else, or have influenced my writing style. The list of books is endless, which makes it incredibly hard to answer the question "What is your favourite book?" (a ridiculous question that is similar to "do you listen to music?" Who doesn't listen to music?). As soon as I think of one book that might be my favourite book, I think of another, and then another, and then another. I can never just choose one book.

I've attempted to choose my favourite books for this list (I like lists) falling into specific 'genres.' I know you all value my opinion, and what I think. Therefore, instead of just doing standard book review about each book, I'm going to tell you what the books mean to me, and why you should read them. And, just to warn you, I couldn't keep this list to just a few books - that would be impossible.

Plus, this article is my chance to be pretentious, as well as to talk about myself. I enjoy doing that. By no means, however, am I doing any of these books justice;

the books are far better than what I describe.

Best book(s) by a female author:

The Golden Notebook by Doris Lessing (1962) and *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath (1963). I can't choose between Lessing and Plath. They are probably my favourite authors. Plath's melancholic tale of her protagonist's (Esther) descent into depression, and subsequent recovery, is beautiful. The first sentence of *The Bell Jar* is the best opening sentence that I have ever read: "It was a queer, sultry summer, the summer they electrocuted the Rosenbergs, and I didn't know what I was doing in New York." When I first read *The Bell Jar* (I was in Junior High), I didn't know who the Rosenbergs were. But, the sentence describes the state of the United States in the 1953 perfectly, and subsequently, the state of women in the gendered world of the 1950s.

The Bell Jar is often thought to parallel Plath's life (who was married to poet - and jerk - Ted Hughes, before killing herself at the age of thirty). *The Bell Jar* may have paralleled Plath's life (despite the ending of *The Bell Jar* is significantly hap-

pier than Plath's suicide), but it certainly defined my melancholic teenage years. *The Bell Jar* is the female version of J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye* (but readable, and without any of that boring "angsty-boy stuff").

Lessing's *The Golden Notebook* also, largely, takes place during the Cold War (1946-1991). Like Plath, Lessing describes the climate of a Cold War world. *The Golden Notebook* tells the tale of two Marxist women, who choose to a life of foreign to women. Both women are unmarried, have numerous sexual relationships, and are active in the political sphere. Most critics agree that *The Golden Notebook* is about feminism. It's not. *The Golden Notebook* is about life, happiness, empathy, and dealing with what is unknown... Really. *The Golden Notebook* describes the life of anybody who is inwardly and socially conscious. You should think of Lessing's best novel as the female answer to male modernist fiction. Just read the introduction, and you will know why I am in love with Lessing.

Runner up: Her works may be non-fiction, but Emma Goldman's *Anarchism: What It Really Stands For* is

up there with Lessing and Plath.

Best Western (hal):
True Grit by Charles Portis (1968). Normally, I would say some dime novel by Max Brand. But, Max Brand really isn't very good. On the other hand, Charles Portis is excellent. I'm sure everyone knows the plot of *True Grit*, thanks to the Coen Brothers' film version of the novel: Mattie Ross, a young girl with an amazing vocabulary, seeks vengeance for her father's death, with the aid of Marshall Rooster Cogburn and Texas Ranger LaBue (pronounced: La-beef). Really, the highlight of *True Grit* is Portis' astounding ability to write dialogue (I envy him). The dialogue mixes Western dialect and Victorian speech.

Also, Portis' Mattie is the perfect response to earlier Western novels depiction of a woman as the redeemer of a rogue cowboy (Owen Wister's *The Virginian* is a prime example, or anything by Max Brand). Unlike other women in some Western literature, Mattie isn't a prop. She's her own person.

Runner-ups: *The Sisters Brothers* by Patrick DeWitt (2011). *Brokeback Mountain* by Annie Proulx

(1997), and *The Englishman's Boy* by Guy Vanderhaeghe (1996).

Best Non-Fiction:
The Birth of Tragedy by Friedrich Nietzsche (1872). I have to include Nietzsche for three reasons. First of all, my father is a Philosophy professor and I feel obligated to include a philosophy book (you should probably read his book on Hegel, or his article in *The Rolling Stones and Philosophy: One Step at a Time*). Secondly, *The Birth of Tragedy* was the first philosophical book that I ever read (and enjoyed). Thirdly, if I've learned anything from reading old issues of *The Dagblatte* from the 1990s and 2000s, it's that people really, really liked Radiohead and Nietzsche in the '90s and '00s. I also really like Radiohead and Nietzsche. Here's a tribute to the old Dag staffers:

The Birth of Tragedy is Nietzsche's first book. And, shockingly, it's actually amusing. Nietzsche's writing style is all over the place (much like my own). His writing is chaotic. But it's engrossing. *The Birth of Tragedy* defines one of Nietzsche's major contributions to philosophy: the Apollonian (the rational) and the Dionysian (the irrational).

...ctd. on page 9

Ctd. from page 8...

Indeed, later on, Nietzsche identified himself with Dionysus: "I am a disciple of the philosopher Dionysus; I should prefer to be even a satyr to being a saint" (*Ecce Homo*). He also referred to himself as "Kaiser Nietzsche" [I learned this from Foucault's *Archaeology of Knowledge*].

Everyone should read Nietzsche. He's incredibly enjoyable and relatively accessible. Plus, one of his quotes ("I lost my umbrella") spawned an entire field of literary criticism (New Historicism; see H. Aram Veeser's *The New Historicism*). And he influenced my other favourite philosopher, Michel Foucault. Leo Tolstoy was not a fan of Nietzsche, though ("Nietzsche was stupid and abnormal"). Make what you want of Tolstoy's scornful opinion of Nietzsche [I laughed, and decided I liked Nietzsche even more].

At one point, I quoted Nietzsche in every single one of my papers [I did this with Oscar Wilde too]. He's a useful man. He also has chapter titles in *Ecce Homo*, like "Why I am a Destiny", "Why I am So Clever", and "Why I Write Such Good Books". Who can't like a man with an ego like that?

Runners-up: *The History of Sexuality: Volume One*:

The Will to Truth by Michel Foucault (1976) and *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* by Judith Butler (1990). Stephen Greenblatt is pretty swell, too.

Best book about a professor:

A Single Man by Christopher Isherwood (1964). In case you can't tell, there is minor theme occurring in this article. I like depressing books that attempt to deconstruct the relationship between politics, sexuality and gender (the theme doesn't include Nietzsche. We won't talk about that, though).

Isherwood's novel tells the story of George, an English professor who lost his partner in car accident. Throughout the novel, George tries to cope with the loss of his partner. The majority of *A Single Man* is told through George's thoughts as he does go through the motions of life. George is also the reason why I want to be an English professor, and why I read Aldous Huxley.

Like Lessing and Plath, Isherwood describes life during the Cold War era. It also describes the life of a gay

couple during the '60s. But, Isherwood doesn't place emphasis on a homosexual relationship. Rather, Isherwood places an emphasis on love and the loss of a loved one. *A Single Man* demonstrates that love isn't about gender and the normative heterosexual relationship. It's about caring for another person, whether romantically or platonically.

Also, watch Tom Ford's (my favourite menswear fashion designer; he also designed for Gucci) film adaptation of *A Single Man*. It stars the lovely Colin Firth as George, Julianne Moore, Nicholas Holt, and Matthew Goode. Ford put painstaking effort into the smallest details of the movie [he had George's name stitched into the lining of the suit George wears throughout the movie].

Runner up: *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov (1955) - Nabokov has wonderful references to Edgar Allan Poe. Plus, the dude is named "Humbert Humbert."

Taken book of poetry:

Erotic Poems by E.E. Cummings (2010). *Erotic Poems* is probably the only book of poetry that I have ever read in its entirety (besides Plath's *Ariel*). I really have to admit one thing: I don't much care for poetry. I

don't understand poetry. But, I do understand E.E. Cummings. The reason why I like *Erotic Poems* can be summed up simply: unreserved poems about sex that are illustrated with "crude" sketches. Plus, I also adore Cummings's writing style, and his lack of capital letters. His writing doesn't conform to a dictated formula of poetry. I strive to be like him.

Runner-up: Walt Whitman. Woody Guthrie has poem (lyrics) called "Walt Whitman's Niece", which was put to music on *Mermel Avenue* by Wilco and Billy Bragg - what a splendid combination!

Best autobiography:

Dior by Dior by Christian Dior (1956). Dior, the creator of the New Look (that glorious silhouette, we have all come to worship of, nipped in waist and a longer, conservative skirt) is a hilarious Frenchman. Dior's autobiography tells the story of his life as a fashion designer, from when he first discovered what he was meant to do (design haute couture), to his first collection in 1947 at 30 Avenue Montaigne in Paris, to his first trip to America. Dior enjoyed red wine and elegance.

Dior by Dior is the quintessential book for any vintage fashion lover. To leave you with an example of

Dior's writing style, I must quote from Dior's other book, *The Little Dictionary of Fashion: A Guide to Dress Sense for Every Woman* (1954), where he wonderfully writes: "Until the time we are converted into robots - and I hope this time will never come - individuality will be always one of the conditions of real elegance."

Runner-up: *Scar Tissue* by Anthony Kiedis (2004). It made me giggle.

There you have it: a list of books that I think everybody should read, and that define who I am. On a side note, I could compose a list of books people shouldn't read. That list would entail just one series of books: *Twilight*. I could probably go on and on about why I loathe *Twilight* (where Stephanie Meyers completely contradicts anything achieved by Goldman, Plath or Lessing. Yes, I have read *Twilight*, and more than once. I still don't like it). However, you're probably bored to death by now.

Plath's tombstone, in Heptonstall, West Yorkshire, England, reads "Sylvia Plath Hughes". Frequently, her fans have crossed out "Hughes". Good on them! Hughes was from Yorkshire, and Plath was from Massachusetts.

Spoiler Alert! *The Muppets* are Glorious

The legendary and spectacular group known as the Muppets - as if you've never heard of them - are icons that generations share as core, central staples of life itself. The newest installment of Muppet Magic, which came out on the twenty third of November in 2011, was a cinematic phenomenon of pure, uncompromised glory.

The movie opens in Smalltown, USA - an infinitely genius and utterly hilarious play on the idea of a protagonist coming from a small town - in which said protagonist, Walter: the felt puppet who was raised by humans, describes his completely sane and non-obsessive intrigue with the Muppets. After three outbursts of song, Walter, Walter's human brother, Gary, and Gary's human girlfriend of ten years, Mary, take the bus to Los Angeles. The initial reason for the trip is a getaway for Gary and Mary for their tenth anniversary. Walter wants to see Muppet Studios. Gary invites his Muppet Brother along last minute without really talking to his girlfriend of ten years about it, because as far as relationships go, communication is pretty much dumb. Walter obviously wants to visit Muppet Studios because DUH! Who wouldn't? Mary doesn't care

what they do as long as Gary adheres to her one and only condition that the night of their tenth anniversary, Gary will eat dinner with her. Yeah, that's not foreshadowing. The three visit the run down and dirty Muppet Studio where the Chief from *Get Smart* is touring them around and doing an awful job of it. Walter, out of curiosity, sneaks into Kermit's Old Office because SWEET CHEESE AND RICE! IT'S KERMIT'S - as in *THE PROGS* - old office! Kermit's banjos are in there...

Just as drool begins to drip from Walter's mouth, the door handle turns. When the door opens, the two most important and iconic Muppets of all time walk in: Statler and Waldorf. They sign off the Muppet Studio to some jerk who claims that he will turn the Muppet Studios into a Muppet Museum. His real plan is to mow down the Studio and drill for oil in the middle of downtown LA with no possible way of letting the Muppets have their studio back unless they raise... *Ten million dollars!* [Maniacal laugh]. Walter decides that he needs to tell Kermit so he can save the studio. Kermit decides that the only way to raise ten million dollars is to get the gang back together

and put on The Muppet Show which can only lead to ensuing chaos, hilarity, and heartfelt moments.

Not only does Jason Segel co-star in this, the Muppet movie to end all Muppet movies, but there are like, a million cameos including Fievel, John Krasinski (Jim Henson's friend), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper from *The Big Bang Theory*), Neil Patrick Harris (Barney Stinson from *How I Met Your Mother*) and Jack Black, to name a few. But none of these mere humans even pales in comparison to the legends that are the Muppets.

Muppet, by the way, is a combination of the words Marionette and Puppet. *Genius!* Then again, the Muppets always have been genius. Jim Henson, the original voice of Kermit, created the Muppets in 1954. Well, he created some Muppets. Sam and Friends was the first show that Kermit, along with a few lesser known Muppet-Style characters, ever appeared in. Sam and Friends predates The Muppet Show by about twenty years. The show was created for children, but the

Elisia Snyder DAG WRITER

characters are not too shy to hawk "ESSKAY deli meats" to their parents claiming that "You can taste the difference that quality makes."

For those of you who want to know if The Muppets is worth seeing, my response is "Hell yeah, it is!" Why? Because it's classically funny without being too cheesy. The characters have emotional depth because they are so realistic, something that is unachievable with regular puppets and marionettes. Because of their realism the Muppets have been reaching the hearts and minds and funny bones of literally generations. They are so much more than fabric and foam; their personalities are so pure and developed that they are their own distinct entities. They are more than the people that give them life. I can say that with confidence because the voice behind Miss Piggy is a dude. But it's because of their Muppet-ness that people love them and have loved them for so long. No detail goes unaccounted for. The humor is "family friendly" as the Muppets always have been, but they do not say that it isn't funny. They slipped in a joke where the punch line is supposed to be "Hell if I know" to a kid's show.

But you do not by any means have to grow worn up with the Muppets to appreciate the movie because the jokes and humor and characters are timeless in the fullest sense of the word. They have changed over the years to match the styles of the times like real people. You can go onto the Internet and Google "Miss Piggy Wears the Years" and you will be shocked at how dramatic the changes have been. It's like looking into a person's past and watching them grow up. The first Muppet movies that the students of this university would have seen are likely Muppet Treasure Island and maybe The Muppets Take Manhattan. The Muppets have done some pretty dynamic things for beings without limbs. In Muppets Take Manhattan, Piggy rollerblades. There are full body shots of a puppet rollerblading with no puppeteer. In Muppet Treasure Island the Muppets enact a loose version of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novel *Treasure Island* where the characters take part in full-fledged, pirate-style sword fights as in swinging from ropes whilst waving a sword. There is some really advanced technology used to make these guys do the things that they do. The whole movie is actually intelligent not only for a kid's movie but for adults seeking entertainment also.

CM: Yeah, I recently talked to Lindsay Anderson. Most of the stuff in the store apparently came from here. She's in frequently, looking around, and checking out the various, vintage stuff in the store, right now, apparently is an antique level - a level that has a date on it that says 1918. You never know what's going to be donated. So, the ReStore funds our home-building effort basically by covering 100% of our admin costs - all of our overhead - and then it turns a profit, as well. All of that money goes directly into building homes in Camrose, and as well as overseas. 10% of all the money we take goes towards building homes in Honduras.

As far as benefitting the community-at-large, basically what we do, we take a lower income family, who would not otherwise qualify for a traditional mortgage and, by offering an interest free mortgage, we allow them to make that jump into home ownership. There are several spin-off effects of that: the city gains a taxpayer, whereas before they had a renter; and, the rental market in town opens up a little bit. Usually people who qualify are in two or three bedroom apartments or houses, and we open up a spot there, which also opens up a spot all the way down the rental chain. And, there are many social benefits for families to be in a Habitat home. There have been many studies done, one recent one by the CMHC [Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation], that shows children do better, there are health benefits, and of course, economic ones, to being in a Habitat home.

EM: In order to qualify [for Habitat housing], you have to make \$27,000?

CM: That's the minimum, actually. The window is between \$27,500 and \$43,000.

EM: Is that for both parents, or a single parent?

CM: It depends. It depends usually on the number of children in the household, or the number of bedrooms required. You can find this information online - It's called the CNIT: Core Needs Income Threshold. It changes from year to year, and it is broken down for every province. Apparently, the most expensive place to live, ... is Camrose. Camrose is kind of average ... whereas Canmore ... would probably be around \$40-50,000, we're at \$27,500.

EM: That's more than the average income of somebody who works at Wal-Mart, or a similar store.

CM: I don't know what the wages would be... minimum wage is very low in this province.

EM: It's \$9.40, I think.

CM: Right, I don't know how many people are actually making that... maybe more than I would think... that's the problem that we have. If there's only one income, and it's a fairly low income, they still can't quite meet our minimum requirements. The bottom line is, it's about home-ownership, but they have to be able to afford the house. The only thing worse than not being able to qualify someone for a home is putting them into a situation that they can't afford, and then they end up house-poor. They can't afford groceries, their car payment, and we end up in a bad situation, a few years down the line.

EM: Tell us about some of Habitat's successes.

CM: A Habitat family basically sold their home back to us. They wanted to move out. They had built up some equity in the home, and they used it to buy a slightly bigger house closer to their children's school. Their time in that Habitat home allowed them to build up equity instead of throwing money away every month in rent. And, they fulfilled that dream. They were - now they've moved to a different neighbourhood closer to their children's school, and they're happy; a success story there. And then, we were able to qualify a partner family who is in immediate need of housing, and it was just perfect timing. Their current housing situation was unhealthy, and basically unsafe - overcrowded, mould, just a house in poor repair. Some of the children were actually sick, and they moved into this Habitat house, and we did a quick renovation and just quick minor repairs, moved them in, and the children have been healthy ever since. They are very happy with their new Habitat home, and we're happy that that situation worked out as well as it did. That's just one recent success. But, there are a lot of stories ... [We] built our first home in '96 and, we've built 18 homes to date ... We're very proud of that building record here in Camrose - that every year homes get built, and families are helped in this community.

EM: On a personal note, what do you get out of this work?

CM: I guess there is definitely a sense of accomplishment. The home dedications are - I've only been here for about eight months - definitely a poignant experience... you're there... all of the efforts of a lot of people, a hundred different community groups, and contractors, and sponsors and volunteers, all come together to produce a very tangible aid to someone in need. It's a real life changing moment for the families involved. The home dedications are, and that's the case all across Canada with these things, emotional experiences. I guess that sometimes the job can be a bit of a slough - there's a lot of paper work, and there's a lot of aspects to it. But, if you keep the mission firmly in mind - a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live - that's the guiding importance behind dealing with things like transfers of title, etc., all of the legal wranglings, and financial ones that are involved.

EM: What are some of the other social needs that you see in our community in addition to housing?

CM: Well, I guess the issue that is out in the media now is probably the one affecting university students, your readers, is going to be transportation ... I'm sure it's in

your paper already, but students should go to survey.camrose.ca. Go there, it takes five minutes. Be heard. Right, these university people if they would come out to vote in the elections ... and, make their voice, and be heard, it would have the potential to affect some change - some change, and maybe the right kinds of changes, too. As far as a busing plan, like they have in other municipalities, it might not work here. I like this idea, I like how the city is going about it with this survey and trying to come up with a tailored, or a made in Camrose, kind of solution to this problem. It's going to be probably a little of this, and a little of that, and some compromise in order to make it cost effective because no one wants to have an expensive program and run it into the ground on the taxpayer's dime.

EM: Anything else?

CM: No, other than that I want to encourage Augustana students to get involved with our organization. If you're looking for a way to make a difference, this is an easy and tangible one. If you have three hours, an afternoon - one afternoon a month - come down to the ReStore and volunteer.

We can find you something that's easy, fun, and, like I said, not all that time consuming. One afternoon a month is basically all we're looking for. If I had 20 or 30 students do that, we wouldn't have any sort of volunteer shortage down here, right now. The current volunteers we have are fantastic, but we seem to draw on the same people, again and again. We always need a new infusion of people who are interested in helping us out, and students would be a great fit for us. We're seven blocks away, right. And you people are eager and socially conscious, right?

Also, the build site... Trina Harrison through the Alumni office is co-ordinating a project. So, if you want to get involved in building a house for a family in need, actually four families in need, this summer, get in contact with her at the Alumni office, and she will sign you up...

There's a wealth of experience that [students] could gain by coming in here. And, leave with a really impressive line on their résumé, and a really impressive reference letter - there's an upside for them, too.

And, if you have recently moved or know someone who has, ReStore is the perfect place to look into. Not only can you feel like a contributor, but you can also get cheap stuff! ReStore is located at 5007 - 46 Street in Camrose.

Not only do
we open doors
we build
them too.

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Find out if you may
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INFORMATION SESSION

Date: February 7th, 2012
Time: 7:00pm
Location: Knights of Columbus Hall
6002 - 50 Avenue (Grand Drive), Camrose

For more information, please call 780-472-4494 or visit
www.habitatcamrose.com

 www.habitatcamrose.com

Scholarships: A Rant in two parts

Student X

I am student X. I don't have time to take part in a leadership role because I am going to school, and I am trying to put all I have into getting good grades because that's why I'm here. I am not as good at sports as others are, and I am not good enough to play competitively. I work at a newspaper at my school because I am fairly good at writing, and I need the money.

I like to play my guitar, so I go out, once a week, to play at the local bar for a few hours. Every weekend, I leave campus to visit my boyfriend who lives in Edmonton. He and I don't speak that much during the week, because we both have things to do (e.g., the twelve thousand dollar education that we're trying to earn). He's a little bit luckier than I am in that his parents decided to pay for his education.

My parents, probably like a lot of yours, did not decide to pay. Some families can afford to pay. My family can. My parents think it will build character for me to work for my education. They've made a "deal" with me – and I use the term deal loosely because I didn't agree to this plan – that I would go to the bank, get a student line of credit, and pay for my education that way.

A student line of credit, for those who do not already know, works like a credit card. You loan money, you owe interest, and eventually you pay off the debt. The deal was also that when I graduate, my parents will give me the money that they have set aside for me and I will use that money to help pay off my debt. If I somehow end up without debt, that money will be used to give me a head start on possibly buying a house. Having no debt would be really nice.

So, like many of you, I will get a job this summer to pay for school. Some of you will even get two jobs. Some of you are incredibly lucky like I am, and will land jobs with high pay doing physical labour. For those who aren't able to do physical labour, there are scholarships, bursaries, special tax breaks and, depending on the circumstances, maybe even the Make a Wish Foundation. However, the majority of the population does not have a disability. The rest of us have to be special in other ways.

Some get scholarships for sports. If you're not good at sports, you can get a scholarship for having a certain average. If you have poor grades, there are smaller scholarships but you have to

demonstrate financial need. This last one is the one that is kind of ridiculous. The people in the most need get the smaller scholarships.

"Well," you might say, "scholarships are for people who have deserved them because they work really hard, your financial situation does not affect how hard you work." Really? Do you think that the people who have lower grades always work less? Some of the time, unfortunately, slackers give students with only satisfactory grades a bad rep, but sometimes, the people who get lower grades are working just as hard if not harder. The kids who never had to worry about money can focus all of their attention on school. They work, without anxiety, do their best and get high grades. The rich get richer.

The students who don't have funds available to them for school work to pay for it and thereby gain money, but piss it away on education that they are so stressed about paying for that they don't even gain from it. The poor do not get scholarships.

Then there are bursaries. Anyone who takes the incentive to work a little bit gets kicked in the ass by bursaries. Bursaries are for people in a higher need category than scholarships. You need to display, before even being allowed to apply, that you are in the hole so deep that you actually need help, unlike scholarships in which you only need to meet certain demographic or academic requirements. So where does that leave the middle class of students? Not poor enough to benefit from bursaries, not competitive enough to win scholarships.

The middle class becomes the working class and get summer jobs. If you're lucky, you will land a job that pays twenty dollars per hour at which you can work twelve hour shifts. You can spend the warm summer inside some dark, dusty mold or doing manual labor in the hot sun instead of being at the beach with your friends, who either decided not to go to school or have their education paid for them. You work your ass off and you pay off your X thousand dollar loan in six weeks or so. And, then you have to start saving for next year's tuition and housing fees leaving no wiggle room for you to even think about going out for a beer or relaxing. You know that your bursawski money is coming right out of your textbook fund leading to more stress, poorer grades... do you see what I'm getting at here?

If you do not, my

point is this: Joe/ Jane Average student gets shafted for being a normal citizen. The Elite get rewarded, the underprivileged get pity, and the rest get jack squat. I'm not saying that the whole idea of scholarships is a bad idea or that scholarships need to be distributed equitably. All I mean to say is that, I wish the adults in my life would stop preaching about how millions of dollars in scholarship money go unclaimed every year. I know that.

The fact that the scholarships that go unclaimed do not pertain to me because I'm not disabled or athletic, or volunteer, or poor is frustrating enough without having a parent, grandparent, co-worker or friend tell me how easy it is to get one, and then, make me feel like a failure for getting three.

Did you know:

During recessions, alcohol, entertainment and lipstick sales go up?

Artist to Watch: Joe Nolan

Emily Merklinger DAG EDITOR

And the crowd goes silent...

Each time I've seen Joe Nolan, the crowd fell silent as soon as he stepped onto the stage. He doesn't wear shoes, preferring to perform in his socked feet only. The socks don't always match.

A strange hush overwhelms the audience as he plays his first note, then sings. The hush is only broken with laughter or a rowdy comment ("Take it off!"), or tremendous applause. His incredible stage presence that captures everyone in the room – a charisma that's vital to being a talented musician. Joe Nolan is the next singer-songwriter to watch out for.

I had the pleasure of experiencing Nolan's charisma, hilarious stage banter, and shiver-inducing music, at Scalliwags for Rose City Roots on January 14, 2012 and at Wunderbar in Edmonton, on January 27, 2012. At Wunderbar, Kelly and I sat down with

Geordie Nelson

Dear Editor,

The addition of the chalk board in the Faith and Life Centre this school year was a great idea. The chalk board was put up by the Chaplain as a place to express your ideas, thoughts and feelings. Each week a new question was put up for staff and students to think on and write answers down if they wished. Such questions were "What are your New Year's Resolutions?" "Who raises the bar for you?" "And What makes a hero?" This writing place provided an area for expression, creativity, and a sense of community for our school.

After Robert Kell's passing, the chalk board's message was "What helps you grieve?" This board allowed people to express how they felt, and reading the answers, it was a sense of how deeply people had been affected. I saw the sense of community as others responded to some of the comments of others who were grieving deeply. The writings gave constructive ideas for how to grieve the loss of loved ones and provided students with a safe and anonymous forum to express things they couldn't say in person.

This chalk board helps demonstrate our small campus feel as anyone can come up and write on the board, and see the level of community that our school has. A senior psychology student is even using chalk board answers in a directed studies project. I have only heard good things about this chalk board, and that's because it's a good thing for this school.

This chalk board

brought the community that is Augustana together. Now this chalk board is gone.

Why?

Because the Aesthetic Committee doesn't like it.

First of all, who is the Aesthetic Committee? I have never heard of them before today. Well I found out that they are a committee on campus that has NO STUDENT POSITIONS. And they decide if the school looks "aesthetically pleasing." I'm writing to tell them that they made a ridiculous decision. They demanded that the chalk board be removed from where it was and suggested that it be put in the basement. Nobody is going to see it in the basement. The place in Faith and Life is a perfect position as it is accessible and easy to read for people coming and going. One option might be to put it on the wall of the forum right outside the Faith and Life doors; however, the Forum was a neutral space last time I heard. Part of the point of making the school look "aesthetically pleasing" is to attract prospective students. Well, this chalk board can show them how close of a community we are.

This Aesthetic Committee needs to allow the Chaplaincy to put the chalk board back where it was: on the wall beside the elevator in the Faith and Life Centre. The whole point of that place was that it was in a high traffic area. This week's answers in a directed studies project. I have only heard good things about this chalk board, and that's because it's a good thing for this school.

This chalk board helped demonstrate our small campus feel as anyone can come up and write on the board, and see the level of community that our school has. A senior psychology student is even using chalk board answers in a directed studies project. I have only heard good things about this chalk board, and that's because it's a good thing for this school.

Nolan and learned about the man behind the Art & Lutherie guitar.

Nolan, a 21-year-old, Calgary-Edmonton based musician, grew up surrounded by music. For him, there wasn't any other option but to play the music he loves. "There was always records going on," said Nolan, "My parents used to play cards late at night, and they'd just jump the music – I'd be in bed and could never sleep, listening to the Beatles, and the Monkees, and Tom Waits... My Dad played guitar when I was growing up, and my sister played piano, and there was always music going on in the house."

At the age of eleven, Nolan strummed his first guitar. Five years later, he started playing schools at schools and church functions in Fort Saskatchewan, before venturing forth into Edmonton to play at open-mics. The same year, Nolan recorded his first record

with Mike Lent, a stand-up bass player who accompanied him at Scalliwags

Since recording his first album, Nolan has spent a lot of time on the road, playing shows in Alberta and recording his second album, *Goodbye Cinderella*, in Nashville, Tennessee. He has a tour in Norway and Sweden in the works for May 2012. For Nolan, travelling is one of the best perks of being a musician: "I don't have any problems traveling or being on my own. Actually, I enjoy it – that's what I want to eventually do. Just get in my car and play every night and drive... I write a lot from experiences on the road – stories that happen, or just different inspirations: meeting people, and you know, falling over and being too drunk."

Beyond road tripping, Nolan cites Howlin' Wolf, Mississippi John Hurt, Neil Young

25 Resolutions You Should Try This Year

Brooke Smith DAG WRITER

1. Stop Procrastinating. Yes, I know, this is probably the hardest one. However, the only way to get through the loads of homework and readings on time is to just sit down and do it. Finding a hard time concentrating? I suggest finding a quiet area to yourself without distractions (this consists of no phone or iPod) Also use the interval schedule while studying; such as, 50 minutes studying, 10 minutes for a break. If you are successful in doing this, treat yourself!

2. Go to the gym. This can be hard with a busy schedule, but believe me, you can only benefit! Not only is it a good time to get your mind off school, but it's also a good way to treat your body and feel great after. Try going at least a few times a week.

3. Start eating healthy! Instead of going for that greasy bacon in the morning, or that chocolate cake for desert, reach for yogurt or fruit for a burst of sweetness without the guilt. Not only will you feel better, but your body will thank you.

4. Quit bad habits. This can be anything from binge drinking to smoking. Start the New Year with a healthy attitude and steer away from all that can cause damage to your body and lead to hangovers. Not only is this not good for you, but it can lead to physical and mental problems that can get in the way of schoolwork. The New Year should be an opportunity to better your health, not hinder it.

5. Spend more time with family. Don't spend every week until the end of the semester at the dorms and with

friends. Make sure you make room for some quality time for the ones who love you the most.

6. Organize. Start with your room, office space, or school notes. By being more organized your life will be more organized as well!

7. Learn a new language. Studying languages can only better your view of the world and its intricate web of cultures. By learning a new language not only are you bettering yourself by obtaining new knowledge, but you are also better able to connect and understand a different culture on a different level. It's also fun!

8. Boost your confidence. 2012 is a great year to change your outlook on YOU. Believe in yourself and your abilities. Stop comparing yourself to others around you. Not only will it benefit your outlook of yourself, which will lead to a greater outlook on your life, but you will also be creating a good foundation for your future.

9. Learn to cook. Whether it's for a date, a get together, for your family, or just for yourself, cooking is great. Dig into an old recipe book or buy a new one, and put your culinary skills to the test!

10. Travel somewhere new. Traveling can be a great way to become exposed to different cultures and ways of life, as well as a change of scenery, which can be relaxing yet thrilling. Is the winter slowing you down? Is there a country that you have been dying to see? Make this the year where you go ahead and plan a

trip for yourself—you'll be glad you did!

11. Get adequate rest. As university students it can be hard to get a good 8-9 hours, but for the benefit of your health and mind, you should really try. Getting enough rest can hinder your mental abilities and cause MORE stress than is needed. Physical and mental exhaustion in no way help with homework, tests, or even social interaction! Try to get into bed and hour or two earlier than you usually do. If you can't fall asleep, try reading a book rather than going on the computer, as the screen will awaken your brain and suppress the release of melatonin in your brain.

12. Manage your stress. With school come hassles, deadlines, frustrations and demands. When you feel the stress building up, it's best to not ruminate on it. Instead, talk a walk, read a book, talk to your friends, go to the gym, dance to your favorite song. Anything that makes you happy and gets your mind off the stress you are experiencing will help you manage your stress this year, and in the long-term, your health!

13. Fall in love. Stop waiting, tell that special someone that you have feelings for them!

14. Better your grades. If you are feeling that your grades are sub-par, why not step it up a notch? Try new study habits, go to your teacher's office hours, make group study sessions, manage your time with an agenda, and keep on track with your readings and assignments.

15. Learn how to play a new instrument. You know that instrument that you've always been dying to play, but just haven't tried to find the time to learn HOW to play it? This year is your chance to pick up the guitar and try to play your favorite song. Playing music can also be a great stress reliever!

16. Limit Facebook/Internet time. The internet can be the biggest distraction when it comes to school work. Instead of wasting your time reading wall posts, sending messages or posting pictures, try to make more time for school work and real social interactions. If you find it hard to do this, deactivate your account! It WILL reactivate when you are ready—don't worry.

17. Get involved. Join a new club, volunteer at school events, submit articles to the newspaper, or join a sports team.

18. Volunteer. There are many opportunities available to students who want to volunteer. Look out for opportunities and start making a difference in your community this year!

19. Create a blog/website. Though this is time consuming, it can really be a way to de-stress and have fun while doing it. Make a blog or website dedicated to what you love, and share that love and knowledge with others from around the world.

20. Drink more water. Water is extremely important not only for our survival but for our well-being. Try to consume

at least 6-7 glasses of water a day! You will feel better and your body will be happier. The way to tackle dehydration is to always carry around a big water bottle, and take it everywhere you go.

21. Save money. Do you really need that new game console? Do you really need that new bag, or new pair of shoes? Think more wisely about your financial decisions in 2012 and focus more on needs rather than wants.

22. Drown out negativity. Being negative will only make you miserable. Focus on the positives in your life and drown out anything negative. With positive thoughts, life is a much better place, and you will be a much better person to be around!

23. Donate your money to a good cause. If you are able to, try to send some money to your favorite charity or to research this year [Editors' comment: Or donate to *The Dagblatte* staff!]. Every penny makes a difference.

24. Be more aware of the environment. Try not to be wasteful this year. Be conscious about now much water you waste, and how much garbage you collect. Don't forget to recycle, too!

25. Be more selfless. Help and think more of others. Donate money instead of spending, volunteer more instead of only working. Be more conscious about the decisions you make and how they will affect those around you. Don't be greedy, share instead!

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Tom Waits, Jeff Buckley, and Rickie Lee Jones as being major influences on his own style of music. In his spare time, he swims and reads. He's currently reading Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, and he is also a fan of John Steinbeck.

His influences clearly come through when listening to *Goodbye Cinderella*, or watching him live. Yet, he also transcends his influences. Nolan, who dresses like Woody Guthrie or Tom Joad, defies any limit of musical genre or style. Nolan plays guitar with his entire body: a fusion of fingers, torso, gesture and soul. Watching Joe Nolan is like watching pure passion. It's quite something to behold. To put it simply, when I first heard him play, I fell in love.

Everybody else at his *Scalliwags* show in Canmore must have felt the same way. Nolan, who played all original tracks—except for "Blue Skies" by Tom Waits—was one of the best performers that Rose City Roots has brought in. Beyond his memorizing stage presence and glorious music, he interacted with his

crowd wonderfully. He told us stories about how his shower leaks into the high-end women's fashion store he lives above in Calgary, about his inspiration for songs (including lipstick!), his mattress on a floor, and how his sister attended Augustana, a few years back. Nolan's stage presence makes one feel like they've known him for years. He is the epitome of what any good performer should be: engrossing, funny, and memorable.

"Scalliwags is awesome. Everyone there treated me so well, and I felt like a king there. It's very professional," said Nolan about the Rose City Roots gig. "Great audience, really generous. A lot of shows like this [Wunderbar] that are noisy, and it's kind of a lot of drinking. So I really appreciate these [shows like Scalliwags]... it's kind of a rare show when you get people to listen. It's just like everyone is in this one energy together and we're all here. It's really nice."

Joe Nolan is a real treat. I wholeheartedly recommend picking up *Goodbye Cinderella*, or attending one of his shows. In fact, I can't sing him

enough praise. After listening to *Goodbye Cinderella* on repeat for the past week, he's become my new favorite artist. The album combines just the right amount of folk, beautiful guitars and melodies, sexy harmonica (!) and singing, and gosh darn catchy choruses. It's like a cross between Ryan Adams and Tom Waits, with a hint of Chad VanGaalen thrown in for good measure. If singer-songwriter music is your thing, Nolan will be your new favourite artist. *Goodbye Cinderella* is the perfect album for everybody of any age.

"There's no real age to music in a way. I know guys that are sixty that just started playing, and go out and perform. I know thirteen year olds that are starting to play. You're never too late [to play]," Nolan told us. I couldn't agree more. I can't do this young man justice. Google him, buy his album, see him live, and you'll know what I mean.

Swell Tunes from *Goodbye Cinderella*: "One More Secret"/"High as the Moon"/"Letters to Juliet." Actually... the entire album is pretty freakin' swell.

